

Appl. No. 10/658,470  
Response to Office action of October 10, 2006

Attorney Docket No. FSF-031461

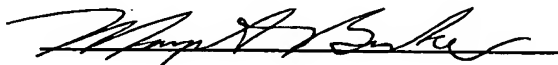
**REMARKS**

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,822 to Asanuma et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,396 to Biegler et al.

Neither the Asanuma patent nor the Biegler patent teach or suggest an image forming method for a photothermographic material including the feature of thermal development in a range of 7 to 15 seconds. As shown in the attached declaration, unexpected results are achieved for this particular range of development time. In particular, odor is suppressed and the volatilization remaining ratios of the phthalazine derivative and phthalic acid derivative are unexpectedly improved compared to the thermal development times outside this range.

In view of the above declaration and remarks, it is submitted that claims 5-8 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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